

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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## THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

### HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

Gingered without doubt at the importance of the coming County Council Elections, considerable activity has been noticeable lately among County Federations of Labour Parties. Several new federations have been formed during the year and movements are on foot in a number of other counties for a similar end. There is a considerable divergence in the composition of these bodies, for while some affiliate local Labour Parties others are representative solely of Divisional Labour Parties; further, the county boroughs are brought in in some counties and not accepted in others, the view, of course, taken being that the federation is intended to act as a Party for county affairs, particularly County Council matters.

We are not anxious to see uniformity brought into the matter yet, for experience in the working of County Federations is still very limited. We, however, incline to the view that the affiliation of local Labour Parties in addition to the Divisional Labour Parties will prove unworkable and result in very uneven representation in many counties; many local Parties will stay outside on account of the cost of travelling. Such affiliations also complicate questions of representation and possibly voting. The affiliation of the County Borough is often expedient where, as in many counties, it is the only borough division and also the geographical and civic centre of the county. But the intrusion of the boroughs into domestic questions such as County Council policy certainly does add another complication, and where in some counties the boroughs outnumber the county divisions there is real danger on this point. However, we are learning, and in the meantime we wish every type of County Federation success in the present endeavours to rouse interest in the County Council Elections.

We have often been surprised at the neglect of literature sales by Local Parties and at the failure to appoint literature secretaries and set up literature departments. In the "old days" before

local Labour Parties carried the field as they do to-day the little I.L.P.'s, Socialist Societies and L.R.C.'s, would as soon think of neglecting this matter as they would of omitting the lovely and wordy scraps they had with one another, and the S.L.P., I.W.W. and the S.P.B.G. on Sunday mornings at street corners. It was the literature that carried conviction. Even to-day one may stir the blood of the old pioneer by reminding him of some of the grand old pamphlets. In a treasured locker we ourselves have a priceless store of them, depleted we are afraid by sundry borrowings by old warhorses whom we forgive. For to steal one of the old-time pamphlets is no crime! Nay—a virtue; though none shall exercise it again if we can help it.

So the power of the pamphlet being admitted why not a literature department in every Party? It is not only the propaganda value that counts, but really handsome profits are derivable from this source. We ourselves have sold at many big meetings *more*, sometimes considerably more, than the collection came to. At 25 per cent. profit such returns are not to be sneezed at; and it is a fact that the appetite for literature grows on audiences.

As if to help us in this good resolution comes a timely pamphlet from the Labour Party, entitled "What the Labour Government has done." Blue covers, 32 pages (more than pre-war value) and one penny. It is crammed full of just the facts for the present hour, and will prove an eye-opener even for Labour people. This pamphlet—one of the best values the Party has ever given, and one of the most helpful and effective it has ever issued—should sell "like wildfire."

The wholesale price is 12 for 9d., 50 for 3/-, or 100 for 6/-. We look for an extraordinary sale for this pamphlet.

One's thoughts naturally turn towards Palestine at Christmastide. But it was in Egypt was it not that the attempt to force the Israelites to make bricks without straw brought on events

that later led to lots of trouble for Pharaoh. It is curious that one should find, in 1930, people with the same obsession as that old Egyptian had and in the Labour Party too! This, at any rate, was what we reflected when we came across a women's section recently ordered to organise a bazaar and given no money to do it with. Now a bazaar or sale of work does definitely require a certain amount of capital to begin with, if the function is to be of any size and really worth the effort. A Party is well advised on launching a big bazaar effort to set aside £25, £50 or even £100 for initial purchases and raw material. Whatever can be voted for this purpose should be administered by a bazaar finance committee whose business it should be to examine the proposals and needs of the bazaar sub-committees and advance cash according to need. A bazaar should not be undertaken lightly and one or at most two a year in a district will prove quite sufficient and if rightly organised all sufficient for the needs. Once decided on, every department of the Party should be roped in and charged with organising some definite stall or enterprise. Even the affiliated bodies should be invited; we have seen some extraordinary good work put in by Trade Union branches.

Of course, someone has already asked "Where are we to get £25 from?" Some riders are always thrown at the first ditch. But if a Party is really serious on a big effort surely £25 can be found. A bazaar is a commercial undertaking. The sums we have mentioned are merely commencing capital and the dense outlook many folk have on this question requires challenging. Some people not only expect bricks without straw but houses without bricks. To digress from our subject we can point to whole towns with paltry membership, whereas if the necessary business outlook existed the expenditure of a few pounds in a properly conducted campaign would bring large numbers to our ranks and the initial outlay would prove a permanently paying investment. Still one supposes we must wait a while ere our local Parties realise that ideals alone won't do, but that we must adopt some ideas from commerce as well. So we will accept it that some Parties wish to raise heaps of money by a bazaar, but they cannot beg, borrow or steal the necessary beginnings. Well it looks like putting these friends on to almost too good a thing, but is it not known

that voucher tickets for goods can be sold months ahead, the vouchers also acting as admission tickets. We know one Party which sold £1,000 (one thousand pounds) of such vouchers before their bazaar was opened. The money from vouchers should never be hoarded. Every effort should be made to use it profitably in bazaar enterprises. And so the capital invested grows and can be fed in as the arrangements go along.

Every man and woman will join in congratulating the "Daily Herald" on its latest increase in circulation, and especially the bold announcement that it is the aim of the "Daily Herald" to become the first newspaper in the land in point of circulation. We understand that the "Daily Herald" has recently gone through its circulation figures and finds that it is fairly safe to state that where the "Daily Herald" circulation is highest there a Labour Member has been returned, or the results have been such as to justify reasonable expectations of winning the seat at the next General Election. This significant statement should carry conviction to every Labour Secretary that it is worth while using every opportunity to push the paper and advocate its claims to support. A great deal can be done yet at public meetings, and to promote this end the "Daily Herald" has recently circulated the candidates of the Party with an offer to supply posters to be used round the halls at public meetings, and also to supply leaflets for distribution. Secretaries who desire to take advantage of this excellent offer (and every secretary should do so) should write immediately to Mr. R. Williams, 68, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Reports from recent by-elections indicate that extraordinary efforts were put in by the "Daily Herald" on Labour's behalf, and our friend and ally ought to be assisted at every opportunity in seeking to attain the foremost position among British newspapers. Much propaganda is spilled simply because people continue to take in the daily doses of poison dished out by the opposition press.

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## POT-POURRI

**"Carried nem con."** Will readers kindly turn to page three of cover for the form of an important resolution?

To assist readers in successfully organising their bazaars we have recently collected a short list of traders who supply, at wholesale prices, specialities and goods suitable for sale at these functions. This list will be sent on receipt of stamped addressed envelope. Will readers who have found satisfaction in dealing with various firms kindly help us to accommodate other readers by sending along the names of these traders?

The Peterborough Labour Party make a good thing out of an excellent grade of tea which is packeted and sold by them. The tea is priced remarkably low but it is of excellent household quality and we have ourselves given it a good and extended test. A number of surrounding Local Parties appear to have joined in this venture and readers requiring to be put on a good thing should write to Mr. R. Watson, Labour Club, Geneva Street, Peterborough.

Incidentally the Peterborough Club and Institute is one of the finest in the country. Many thousands of pounds are invested in this venture and the accommodation is of an extent and standard hardly equalled, and certainly not excelled, in any other Labour centre. A very fine public hall forms part of the premises.

A correspondent enquires the most suitable colours for poster printing. We advise him black on yellow. This combination is easily distinguishable during the day and it also stands out well at night. Next we would say a bronze blue on light blue paper with plenty of "white" to make an effective display.

The I.L.P. Year Book is once again to hand to companion us during another year. Very large numbers of Labour people favour this old friend as being a particularly handy diary, replete with just the references the man (or woman) in the Movement requires. Tastefully and not gaudily bound in red leather with gilt edges, it is cheap at two shillings and sixpence. It may also be obtained strongly bound at one shilling and sixpence. A list of contents will

be found among our advertisements. We have found it of special convenience that a complete week with memos is visible at an opening.

The office man looks for his T.U.C. Calendar every year, and the facts and statistics embodied therein are of prime importance, as of course also is the diary of events for 1931. A new calendar costs three shillings and sixpence, but refills only are one shilling and ninepence. The T.U.C. calendar makes an excellent Christmas present to officials and active workers in the Labour Movement, and to assist in this end a greeting card is actually included in the outfit. See advertisement columns.

We have frequently advocated the carrying of lanterns and flash lamps on canvasses and other visitations, not only for convenience but because in a way they help to centre attention and leave an impression. We saw an excellent lamp for the purpose in use a week or two ago. It really is an electric cycle lamp, costing about four shillings at any of the multiple cycle shops. With a turn of the switch a powerful light is obtainable, while the slightest pressure on a button gives the momentary flash necessary to avoid steps, kerbs and gateposts. A bent-over contrivance at the back really intended for fixing on a cycle enables the lamp to be hooked in the waistcoat pocket. A long lasting battery is supplied with this model.

Our observations show us that there are still numbers of Parties who to save the secretary trouble, or to save postage, depend on mouth to mouth invitations to executive meetings, or on announcements given at the previous meeting. We have, however, not one single recollection of a healthy and successful Party which conducts its business on these lines. A Party which cannot afford to pay the postage to summon its own meetings is in desperate need of the doctor and perhaps also of the undertaker. All such notices ought to go through the post. It is cheaper in the long run to obtain printed matter with dates, etc., left open than to duplicate or write notices complete for each meeting. Printed matter of this sort goes through the half-penny post, and the total cost,

therefore, is negligible; on the other hand tremendous advantage is to be derived by having well-summoned business meetings, which nobody has excuse to forget.

Readers in districts plagued with Empire Free Trade fanatics should not fail to get a copy of "Hansard" for Thursday, 27th November. This issue contains the report of the debate on the Conservative vote of censure in which many valuable and informative speeches were given. The Conservatives got more than they asked for by a good piece, and the report contains excellent debating matter.

There is just time to send before Christmas to Messrs. Birkbeck, Pencil Makers, of Keswick, for a supply of lead pencils for the New Year. Pencils containing the Party's name or a New Year's message sell readily, and return a good profit, but why not a pencil reward for every member paying a minimum subscription of 2/6 in advance?

A fortnight only remains for the collection of this year's arrears of members' contributions. Not much time considering that Christmas takes up

nearly one week. But a special whip round and an examination of payments ought to bring in a handsome little extra in many places—probably more than sufficient to pay the current demand for payment in advance for next year's cards.

We frequently hear complaints of meetings not being held because of either the cost or difficulty in renting rooms. Lots of these meetings after all are merely committee meetings. Have we really forgotten to use one another's houses for this purpose, for this surely would solve the difficulty in some areas? It is surprising what accommodation is sometimes found available when our own ranks are searched. We well remember one district where meetings actually took place in a grocer's shop after closing time.

Sir Oswald Mosley, M.P., addressed a meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire District of the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents on the 9th inst. There was an excellent attendance, and the address was well received. The speech has already been widely reported in the press.

## THE I.L.P. POCKET DIARY FOR 1931

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# Making the "Penny-a-Week Scheme" Go

## *Some Difficulties met and Answered.*

With the New Year many Parties will be instituting the "Penny-a-Week" membership scheme for the first time. But there are others to whom the hints contained in this article will be helpful—some who have endeavoured to work to this basis, and failed, either entirely or in part, and others whose doubts and confirmed conservatism still keep them to the old and unprofitable 1/- a year subscription.

It is not for us to blink difficulties, but the outstanding obstacle to an attempt to make this scheme work in any constituency will invariably be found to be a lack of vision in the local Party—a failure to visualise the earnestness of a great section of the community, as evidenced by the high vote given to Labour; and a failure to visualise the possibilities and future for a great democracy organised on a scientific and sufficient system for the sustenance of its advance. The world has seen and knows the united force of Trades Unionism, built on a similar basis, bargaining and commanding for its members, and at least able to claim that the wage-slavery of capitalism has been regulated and checked; but the world has not yet seen a united democracy, men and women, banded together for political aims in such numbers and on such basis as to embrace practically every person who votes with it. *Yet this end has actually been almost accomplished by certain Local Labour Parties in their areas where the individual membership added to the affiliated membership reaches the total not perhaps of the votes recorded but certainly of the number of houses in which those voters reside!* So is this vision all moonshine?

But, putting aside for a moment the larger end in view, there is the question of immediate finance for our movement and it is now a proven fact that in many widely-differing types of constituencies where one-penny-per-week systems are adopted, Labour can and does retain handsome membership rolls of well into four figures. The proof of the pudding is once again in the eating.

Almost every attempt to inaugurate the new scheme is met at first by someone or other who claims that their district is peculiar—people *won't* do this or that; Muckboro people are different

to the rest of the world; others don't understand; there never was such a place and nothing can be done, etc., etc., *ad libitum, ad nauseam*. After all, what an amazing world this is that so many places are different from the rest and yet all alike in being "the worst ever God made, and the worst to organise!" Courage boys, courage, and just a bit of the old grit and perseverance.

We believe that all these objections are best faced out in a Party meeting and beaten or shamed to silence. Parties desirous of getting the scheme going should first create enthusiasm for, and confidence in its success. This is best done by an executive coming to its general meeting with full information and details of working, *and their own names listed and pledged for a commencement*. A special speaker versed in penny-a-week membership is an asset.

We have noted that where failures have taken place in the past there has generally been a noticeable lack of detail about the initial proposals. No scheme will work on a mere resolution of the members, or by reliance on existing machinery. Every step must be thought out afresh and provided for at the start, i.e., when the new payment starts from; how money will be collected, checked and handed over; how leakages and breakdowns will be provided for; how cards will be issued and by whom; instructions as to out-of-works and extra members in a family; arrangements for acceptance of new members; the canvass for new ones; treatment of removals; the exercise of members' privileges, etc., etc.

This article, of course, concerns primarily, the minimum contribution of 4/4 per year, but while some Parties have this as their minimum, many more have so framed their rules as to allow a smaller minimum in some cases, the 4/4 being the expected standard. We think there is something to be said for this, and collectors ought to be empowered to make exceptions where several members of a family are members, and in other suitable cases. Sickness and unemployment are mostly obvious cases for temporary excusal of payment.

Two questions affecting the status of members which are always asked when

this scheme is discussed is "When does the member 'come into benefit'?" i.e., attain full voting power, and, "When does he cease membership because of failure to continue payment?"

In our opinion it would be unfair and inadvisable in ordinary circumstances to allow persons on paying the first penny or so to be admitted right away to full membership, though exceptions may be necessary especially when opening a new branch. A person becomes a member of the National Labour Party when he receives a national membership card, costing 3d., but the national and model rules are silent as to the amount receivable before the card is handed over. But individual membership is now impossible without that card, and the position is that local Parties must decide for themselves what prepayment must be made before a card is issued. But they must not collect payments indefinitely without issuing cards. The most equitable arrangement is to issue a card with the fourth payment, i.e., when 4d. is paid. The card is the hallmark of membership and carries with it full membership rights.

The problem of arrears is not so easy. The card carries national membership for the full current year. But there is no reason why a member who ceases right away should be accorded full voting rights in the local Party for a whole year, and approval should be sought for a rule giving the Party the right to discontinue summons to meetings after the lapse of a stated period, and proper notice. Undoubtedly we shall reach a stage in time when these matters will be customary and well-recognised, but in the interim stages of membership development it is not well to become too rigid.

The payment of back arrears on the opening of a new year is also a troubled matter. Membership at present is for a year and the card franks the present and so wipes out the past. Here again time and experience and a growing value in sustained membership will tend to minimise losses.

And now as to collectors. No scheme can be successfully started or sustained without some trouble in this direction and constant attention to the problem. More breakdowns occur over this matter than from any other cause.

Voluntary collectorship has succeeded with quite big memberships (Greenwich collects on nearly 3,000 members in

this way) and it should always be tried first. Executives should come to their members with some plan and preferably some definite offers to act as collectors. Example goes a long way and it is catching. Street and district collectorship is the only sound system, and every member should be on some collector's book or other. Those books are wanted now.

But collectorship without supervision is asking for trouble. Even two collectors require a head. And collectors' reports and transactions are not for Party meetings but for private collaborations much more frequently than the Party meets. It is a puerile, uninspiring, and faithless Party that can produce no volunteers for this work. If only one we would say to that comrade get ahead and search the highways and hedges for new and better members.

But success brings its own problems. These weekly trudges get wearisome when the work multiplies. Party activities ought not to degenerate into all machine work. Collectors should not be overburdened owing to the growth of membership. But are there not the new members themselves to be raked in and given a job to do? This is sometimes overlooked.

Even so, we are aware that voluntary collectorship does prove unsatisfactory in some districts though our observation is that the crack comes nearly always because of lack of supervision — there is usually not enough reserve man and woman power; too many are appointed to collect and too few to supervise. Well, there is no sound moral objection to payment for collecting. Indeed, we believe in time this question will have to be faced very widely and regularised. Commission on collections is paid already in many cases; even salaried collectors are employed with success.

Here let us remind our readers that one penny per week subscriptions are not all paid weekly. Fortnightly, monthly and even quarterly calls are arranged. Commissioned and salaried collectors also sometimes act as supervisors to bring in the collections of volunteers with small "books."

Back to that statement that even two collectors require a head. We are a dreadfully human crowd. At a meeting heaps will sometimes volunteer as collectors, they are accepted, given jobs to do, supervision is forgotten or left to the secretary, and in a month all is



chaos. People *will* fall sick, get other calls, forget to turn out, and generally fail you. Every fortnight a collector should be expected to report or a supervisor—chief collector, or what you will—should call. This personal contact nips neglect in the bud and soon works well. The supervisor is a reserve collector, his or her job being not only to receive returns but to step into the breaches. He in turn is supervised, but the size of the membership and other matters determine how. Frankly, we would sooner almost any district go uncovered than risk the success which proper supervision alone makes possible in any district.

Finally, the penny-a-week scheme means so much to Labour that attention to details is well worth while. No scheme or system is foolproof—even sacred law and order itself sometimes breaks down. So hitches will occur, and should be met patiently and boldly, for this attempt to teach the people to pay for their politics will at least do something to remove the reproach from us that even where Labour is in overwhelming strength it still often looks to outside quarters for the wherewithal to function and perform.

If there are snags or difficulties we have seemed to slur or not to touch upon we invite our readers to write us on the matter. And will they tell us also of their successes; because the new contribution is winning and, winning handsomely wherever it is consistently tried out.

## LOCAL PARTY ANNUAL MEETINGS.

### Re-election of Delegates Necessary.

Secretaries are reminded that under the rules applicable for every kind of local Labour Party it is necessary for them to invite affiliated and party organisations to select the delegates for the ensuing year prior to and in time for the annual meeting.

The rule referred to reads as follows:

"The term of office of a delegate shall normally extend from and be inclusive of the annual meeting in any year to the ordinary meeting next prior to the annual meeting of the year following. All delegates who are qualified to be such under these rules may be re-elected. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Party to invite affiliated and party organisations to elect their delegates prior to and in time to

be called to the annual meeting. Officers and members of the Executive Committee who are not re-elected as delegates may attend the annual meeting to tender their reports but may not vote on the business of the meeting."

The above rule, which is by no means so well known as it might be, disposes of a good deal of uncertainty in organisations, and brings order where it was badly need. The rule applies to every kind of delegate including those from Ward Committees and Women's Sections, and it is important that no time should be lost in issuing the necessary notifications. The Divisional Secretaries should issue the notices to the organisations divisionally affiliated, but in County Divisions, Ward Committees and Sections will be notified by their respective Local Parties.

Where no steps have yet been taken in the matter we strongly urge the issue of the notices this month. Twenty-eight days notice of the Annual Meeting is necessary, and while circulars are sometimes sent to affiliated bodies notifying the date of a meeting and asking for delegates, this is not a good plan here, and hardly complies with the rule. The names should be asked for in plenty of time to allow of the delays that accompany these matters and at the same time to enable the 28 days notice to be given to the delegates.

Every circular should contain (1) a statement of the requirements of the rule (which should be quoted in full at the foot); (2) a statement of the number of representatives allowed or the basis of representation, and (3) a request for prompt attention, the inconvenience of delay being emphasised. In the case of affiliated organisations the amount of affiliation fee per member should be stated and the opportunity taken to request payment. A suitable form for names, etc., should be enclosed.

There are many live secretaries who will take this opportunity in communicating with affiliated organisations to embody in their circular some brief, helpful statement of their party's success or similar matter. A well-worded request to receive a deputation from the Party some time during the year may meet with success, and much good be done thereby—so long as clumsy wording does not lead to a delay in re-affiliating till the deputation has attended!

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# The "L.O." Guide to Local Government Elections

## PART IV.—COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS (continued)

### Disqualifications.

The disqualifications for membership of a County Council are very similar to the disqualifications for Borough Councils, with the exception that Peers owning property in the county are not disqualified; nor are officers of the regular forces. A former distinction by which Clerks in Holy Orders and Ministers of Religion were eligible for County Councils but not for Borough Councils was removed by the Ministers of Religion Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1925.

In brief, persons disqualified for election are infants, aliens, inmates of prisons and workhouses, bankrupts, traitors, felons, lunatics and persons affected by the punitive clauses of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Acts plus certain public officials specifically debarred from office. The details and differentiations relating to these disqualifications are best studied in the legal text books.

The holding of any office of profit at the disposal of the Council, employment by, or on behalf of the Council, or any share, or interest, in any contract with the Council, are also disqualifications. But a person who supplies to the County Council, stone, gravel or other material for making or repairing highways, or bridges is not disqualified providing his share or interest in the contract does not exceed fifty pounds in any one year, and that the material is supplied from land on which he is either owner or occupier.

An important point for Labour Selection Committees to remember is that the coming County Council elections are the first elections for those bodies at which the new disqualification relating to the receipt of poor relief will operate. Hitherto, the receipt of poor relief has not operated as a bar to election, but by Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1929, "a person shall be disqualified for becoming or being a member of the Council of a County..... if he has, within twelve months before

becoming, or has since becoming such a member, received poor relief, except that he shall not be so disqualified by reason only that he, or a member of his family, has received medical or surgical treatment, or has been an inmate of an institution for that purpose, or has received relief which could have been granted under the Blind Persons' Act, 1920, or been maintained in any place as a pauper lunatic."

### The Returning Officer.

The returning officer is appointed by the county council and the mayor and aldermen are not assigned for this purpose as in the case of borough councils. The returning officer may be a member of the council provided he has not directly or indirectly by himself or his partner received any profit or remuneration in respect of such appointment, but he may not be a candidate at an election for which he is returning officer, and this privilege therefore becomes limited to a casual vacancy.

The returning officers appoint deputies, but in the case of non-county boroughs it is laid down that "in a borough the returning officer for the purpose of the election of councillors of the borough shall continue to be the same as heretofore, and where an electoral division of the county is co-extensive with or wholly comprised in such borough, shall at the election in such division of a councillor of the county council act as the returning officer in pursuance of a writ directed to him from the county returning officer, and so far as respects that election shall follow the instructions of, and return the names of the persons elected to the county returning officer in like manner as if he were a deputy returning officer, and any decision of an objection shall be subject to revision by the county returning officer accordingly, and a reference in the said enactments to the town clerk, shall, as respects the borough, be construed to refer to the town clerk."

### Day of Election.

As explained in our last issue not less than six weeks prior to the eighth of March the council may choose any day between the first and eighth day of March for the day of the election, but if no date is fixed by the council the eighth of March becomes the statutory day of election.

### Notice of Election.

Nine clear days at least before the day of election the returning officer must prepare and sign a notice of same and publish same in the same manner as is done by the town clerk in borough councils. The notice must be given also in the electoral divisions.

### Nominations.

Nomination papers may be obtained from the returning officer. Each candidate must be nominated by a separate nomination paper and an elector can only subscribe to one nomination paper in the county.

Nomination papers must be delivered *by the candidate or his proposer or seconder* within the time stated in the notice of election. The words in italics should be particularly noted as a paper has been declared invalid when delivered by the agent and not by the candidate, his proposer or seconder.

The nomination form is the same as for a borough election, and differs from the form used for Parliamentary elections. The essential differences are that the heading and date are part of the paper and the register numbers and polling district letters of the signatories are required.

On the day following the last day for delivery of nomination papers the returning officer will sit for a "sufficient time" (notice of the time will be given) between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. to decide on the validity of objections. Objections must be made in writing, but only a candidate or his representative may lodge an objection, and these persons are entitled to attend the proceedings.

The place at which objections may be made is provided for by Section 75 (7) of the L.G. Act, 1888, which reads as follows:—

"Some place fixed by the returning officer shall, except where the election is in a borough, be substituted for the town clerk's office, and, as respects the hearing of objections to nomination papers, for the town hall, but such place shall, if the electoral division is the

whole or part of an urban district, be in that district, and in any other case shall be in the electoral division or in an adjoining electoral division."

From the above it will be seen that it is possible to group the electoral divisions for the purposes named, and obviously the deputy returning officers will be persons attending thereat to hear objections. Objections however, may be lodged to any candidate in the county by any other candidate or candidate's representative, though the procedure and limited time does not permit of much facility for this being done.

(To be continued).

### THE NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

#### Books of Stamps Also Now Available.

The Labour Party individual membership cards for 1931 are now in the hands of the Head Office of the Labour Party and ready for delivery through the Divisional Labour Parties throughout the country.

The urgency of dealing with this matter immediately should be obvious to every one concerned. No person not in possession of a national membership card is recognised as an individual member of the Party, nor has he or she any rights in this respect to be present at meetings or act as an officer. The cards for 1931 should therefore be ready for delivery to every member at least by January 1st.

If steps have not already been taken by Ward Committees, Local Labour Parties, Women Sections, etc., to acquaint their Divisional Party with the number of cards they require this should be done immediately for there is little time to lose. Treasurers should get the necessary authority and be ready to dispatch cash for the cards together with the order. The basis on which the national card system is established is of course well known—cash must be paid by the D.L.P. to the Head Office, and this operates as the national affiliation fee, and cash in turn should be paid in advance by each Party organisation handling cards, unless local credit is arranged with the D.L.P.

The 1931 membership card is coloured red, and in order to meet the convenience of Parties who have adopted the system of collection by stamps, booklets of stamps of various denominations have been issued by the



Labour Party and are obtainable at a small extra cost per booklet. The stamps are made to the size of the squares in the membership card, and in every way the stamp system is to be thoroughly recommended both for its simplicity of working and the avoidance of errors. It is also much more satisfactory to members, many of whom prefer a stamp on their cards to a signature.

Each booklet will contain stamps to the face value of 30/-. The stamps are perforated and gummed, and bound in a card cover (3 inches by 4½ inches) with space for the name of the issuing Party, the name and address of collector and number of book. The denominations in which stamps are issued allow for every variety in subscription and method of collection. They are issued as follows and at the prices named.

Booklet containing 360 stamps of the value of	
1d. each ... ..	6d. post free.
Booklet containing 180 stamps of the value of	
2d. each ... ..	4d. post free.
Booklet containing 120 stamps of the value of	
3d. each ... ..	4d. post free.
Booklet containing 90 stamps of the value of	
4d. each ... ..	3d. post free.
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We have recently seen one or two excellent typewritten delegates' reports of the Llandudno Conference, and one in particular engaged our attention as being exceedingly well worded and to the point. This was presented by Mr. Paul Reid, the Prospective Candidate for the Bodmin Division, who was the delegate for the Bodmin D.L.P.

# Calendars

We produce large quantities every year. Agents contemplating issuing Calendars at Xmas should consider ordering now.

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## QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

### Poor Law Inmates and the Vote.

*Question.* Will you kindly inform me whether inmates of Poor Law Institutions are entitled to the Parliamentary vote and if so under what paragraph of the Act?

*Answer.* This matter is governed by Section 41 (5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, which reads:—

"A person who is an inmate or patient in any prison, lunatic asylum, workhouse, poorhouse, or any other similar institution shall not by reason thereof be treated as resident therein for any purpose of this Act."

It will be seen, therefore, that such persons are not entitled, as inmates, to the vote.

### A Church of England Clergyman as Municipal Candidate.

*Question.* I am to ask you whether a Church of England Vicar is eligible to stand for a Borough Council and to take his seat if elected. This is important as we have one here nominated for a vacancy.

*Answer.* Clergymen were not eligible to sit on Borough Councils on the first establishment of these bodies. With the establishment of County Councils, which expressly made clergymen eligible for that body, an anomaly arose and this was removed by the Ministers of Religion Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1925, by which all similar disqualifications were removed. The nomination of the gentleman named will, therefore, not be improper.

### A Rejected Nomination.

*Question.* I enclose a nomination paper which has been rejected because the signatories had written their surnames first. Was the Returning Officer right? We should like your opinion.

*Answer.* Our opinion is that the Returning Officer was unquestionably

right in this case. The signatures of the proposer and seconder are required in respect of every kind of nomination, and in the case of certain bodies the signatures of assentors are also required. Now a person's signature is his or her ordinary signature, and no person signs his name backwards. In support of this contention the Ballot Act might be quoted where a form of nomination is prescribed, and the method of filling in is indicated. There are also a long series of decisions which have a bearing on the point, and it should be obvious that if a backward signature was taken to be correct doubts might arise in many cases as to the identity of the subscriber where his christian name happened to be also one commonly used as a surname. The law clearly intended a person's ordinary signature to be appended and no other.

### An Unopposed Candidate's Expenses.

*Question.* If a candidate incurs no election expenses at a Municipal Election must a return still be made to the proper quarter,—and if a candidate is returned unopposed is he called upon to make a return of expenses—further, if that candidate not knowing he was going to be unopposed had fixed certain meetings to take place after nominations (when he was declared elected) are the expenses for those meetings reckoned as part of his election expenses?

*Answer.* A candidate who is returned unopposed must send in his return of expenses in the same way as if he contested the seat. We are of the opinion also that the meetings referred to are part of that candidate's election expenses, and it is clear that the expenses were incurred prior to his election and as a part of the conduct and management of his election.

A candidate who has incurred no expenses is nevertheless under a liability to make a return to that effect.



### How to Get a Parish Council Established.

*Question.* Will you kindly give me information upon the following, either direct or through the "Labour Organiser."

One of our small parishes has grown considerably during the last three years and now has over 300 population, therefore entitled to have a Parish Council. Who will have to make a move to get this? The triennial elections in the area are due next March and April and I expect someone will have to make a move some weeks before that time. If attention is drawn to the County Council by an elector will that suffice?

*Answer.* The parish in question is undoubtedly now entitled to a Parish Council. The matter is governed by Section 39 of the Local Government Act, 1894, which reads—"Where the population of a parish not having a separate parish council increases so as to justify the election of such council, the parish meeting may petition the county council, and the county council, if they think proper, may order the election of a parish council in that parish, and

shall by the order make such provision as appears necessary for separating the parish from any group of parishes in which it is included, and for the alteration of the parish council of the group, and for the adjustment of property, rights, and liabilities as between the group and the parish with a separate parish council."

Under Section 1 of the same Act parishes with a population of three hundred or upwards at the time of the commencement of the Act were compelled to have a Parish Council, and it would appear that the County Council have no power to refuse the necessary order unless it means the breaking up of a group of parishes which does not seem to be the case here. Parishes of less than three hundred population may have a Parish Council, and here the County Council has a discretion.

The best course to take is to summon an immediate parish meeting, and this may be done by either the Chairman of the parish meeting or any six Local Government electors. The necessary resolution should be passed at this meeting and immediately forwarded to the County Council.

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Of the Annual Conference of your Union ?

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### LONDON LABOUR'S FLYING SQUAD.

The London Labour Party deserve to be congratulated on an original idea concerning by-election organisation, and one which we have no doubt will catch on in the country and prove of inestimable service to the Party.

The London Labour Party has been considering how it could best secure during Parliamentary and L.C.C. by-elections the services of a sufficient number of election workers from London constituencies. The response to appeals in the past has not been adequate, and it has therefore been decided to form a special body of election workers to be known as London Labour's "Flying Squad." Membership of the "Flying Squad" is to be open to all members of the Party who are willing to undertake by-election service. If the response is satisfactory it is understood a scheme for a motor section is in view.

The "Flying Squad" is to be divided into four sections covering the various parts of London, and the form of enrolment reproduced below supplies further details as to the working of this laudable project.

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## LONDON LABOUR'S "FLYING SQUAD"

### FORM OF ENROLMENT.

To THE SECRETARY,

The London Labour Party,

258-262 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1.

I desire to be enrolled as a member of "London Labour's Flying Squad" for By-Election service. I undertake to give service at By-Elections in the area(s) indicated below for at least a part of one day during each contest, unless prevented by illness or special circumstances.

Name.....

Address.....

Divisional Party.....

Please indicate the London area(s) in which you will serve by putting a mark through those which do NOT apply

NORTH

SOUTH

EAST

WEST

Please place mark through the services below which you CANNOT undertake.

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# Minutes and Minute-Taking

(SECOND ARTICLE).

It will now perhaps be simpler for us to take the agenda which we printed last month and go through this to show a model form of minutes. Our model minutes will be the paragraphs in italics, our comments being in ordinary type.

*Minutes of a meeting of the Go-Ahead Divisional Labour Party, held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 1st November, 1930, in the Labour Hall, Smalltown. The Chairman, Mr. A. Force, J.P., presided and there was an attendance of 48 members.*

*Apologies for absence were received from two executive members, viz., Messrs. A. Child and I. M. Hill.*

Note that the time, date and place of every meeting should be stated in the minutes. Also the name of the person presiding, the attendance, and any apologies. It is unnecessary to record that the chairman opened the meeting unless in fact there is reason to record a special welcome to delegates or visitors, or a "Chairman's address." It is unnecessary for the notice concerning the meeting to be read except at special meetings. The agenda should, however be read out unless each member has a copy of same.

## MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

*The minutes of last meeting were read by the Secretary. Moved by Mr. E. Helps, seconded by Mrs. M. E. Too, "that the minutes be passed as a correct record." Carried unanimously.*

In some organisations it is the practice for the Chairman to read the minutes, on the principle, one supposes, that this is a check on error, and frequently the items of correspondence are read by the Chairman. We do not think much of either of these courses for the Chairman's duty is to preside and keep order and not to act as a sort of supervisor to the Secretary. Note that no discussion is allowable at this stage, except on the accuracy of the minutes.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

*The Chairman enquired if any member desired to ask a question arising out of the minutes. A member enquired whether the motion carried at the previous meeting to purchase 250 Labour Party membership cards had been acted upon, and was informed in the affirma-*

*tive. Mr. A. Snagg desired to move a resolution instructing the Secretary to withhold the cards from all local secretaries until paid for. The Chairman ruled that no new motion could be taken at this stage, and that if anyone desired to move a resolution it would be taken at the close of the business.*

Note the importance of the Chairman's ruling. It is highly improper to allow fresh discussion on business done at the last meeting on the plea that they arise out of the minutes. They do not, for the minutes are only a record. Discussions can only arise on motions which should be taken unless special reasons obtain, after other business. "Matters arising" is really a misleading item on an agenda and only requests for information are properly allowable.

## REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

*The Secretary presented the report of the E.C. Two E.C. meetings had been held since the date of last general meeting and in each case there was a full attendance of members.*

*The E.C. reported that 39 new members had been admitted by the Local Parties during August and 48 during September. The individual membership in the Division now stood at 1,339. Difficulties had arisen with the Go-slough Local Labour Party over the non-transmission of new members' names to the Divisional Secretary, and also the payment for cards and other fees. A deputation consisting of the Chairman, the Secretary and Mr. E. Helps had visited the Party and had an encouraging meeting at which an improvement in future working was promised.*

*As instructed at last general meeting a further 250 membership cards had been purchased from the Labour Party.*

*Etc., etc., etc.*

*It was moved by Mr. I. S. Avie, seconded by Mr. E. Grips, "that the report be approved." Carried unanimously.*

Note that in minuting a summary of the report may be given as above, or if the report was a written one, the whole of it should be embodied.

Note too, that there are two ways of giving an account of the doings of an executive (a) by means of a "report" or (b) by reading the E.C. minutes. Both

have objections. Unless the report is a "considered" one there is always the possibility of important matters being omitted or even wrongly reported on, but the report does enable reasons and results to be better expressed. The reading of minutes, often practised, leads however, to many questions, but the chief objection is that even in democratic bodies executive business is not always ripe or fit matter for discussion at general meetings. The cooking of minutes is not unknown when the practice is made of reading them, and on the whole we think the E.C. report is the better and satisfactory thing.

#### REPORT OF DELEGATE TO LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE.

*Mr. A. Luckiman, delegate to the Labour Party Annual Conference, held at Llandudno, presented a report of the proceedings which was as follows:—*

*Following the report a number of questions were asked concerning the fate of resolutions on the agenda for the Conference. Mr. Luckiman explained the process by which resolutions are amalgamated and reduced in number by consultations among the movers and the Standing Orders Committee, and further supplemented his report with other details. It was moved by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. M. E. Too, "that the report be approved and that the best thanks of the Party be accorded Mr. Luckiman." This was carried with acclamation.*

*Though we have got out of a difficulty here by assuming a written report, this, unfortunately, is the exception rather than the rule. Generally, however, the minute-taker will have to note the salient points of the report for it is important they should be recorded.*

#### REPORT OF SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

*The Social Committee reported through the Secretary that a profit of sixteen pounds had been made on the whist drive held on 9th September, and this sum had been handed over to the Treasurer. Arrangements for the Christmas and New Year's Party to be held in conjunction that the Muchglee Local Labour Party were well in hand, and it was proposed that the profits from same should be disposed of on a fifty-fifty basis. If the report was approved the tickets would be immediately*

*procured and distributed to Local Party Secretaries throughout the Division.*

*Mr. E. Helps moved, and Mr. G. A. Head seconded, that the report be approved. An amendment was moved by Mr. B. Glum, seconded by Mr. A. Snagg, that the Christmas and New Year's Party be deferred for twelve months. On being put to the vote the amendment was lost, only the proposer and seconder voting for same, and the report was then approved nem con.*

*Note that when amendments are moved the names of the proposer and seconder should be taken the same as for a resolution. This resolution was carried nem con. Strictly speaking, this does not mean quite the same as carried unanimously. A unanimous vote is only possible when every one votes, but a resolution carried nem con ("nemine contradicente") means that the resolution was carried without opposition; obviously the movers of the amendment held their peace when the resolution was put.*

#### REPORT OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

*The financial secretary presented the quarterly report on income and expenditure. This was as follows:—*

*Mr. E. Helps moved, and Miss I. Too seconded, "that the report be approved." A discussion took place in which several members urged that a separate Parliamentary fund should be established, the members taking part in this discussion being Messrs. W. E. Urge, W. E. Tell, C. Cash, and N. O. Money.*

*The Chairman assured the delegates that this proposal would be considered at the next meeting of the Executive and the resolution of approval was thereupon unanimously carried.*

*Note that a financial report should also be in writing, and unless a very long one, it is advisable to embody the whole of it in the Minutes. If the report is too lengthy for this purpose care should be taken that the salient points of the report are noted for minuting. It will be seen in this case the Chairman gave an undertaking, and this is minuted, or otherwise the members have no record of a promise which in this case certainly altered the course of business, for the evident desire of some members was to move an amendment.*

*(To be continued.)*



# THE LABOUR PARTY

# League of Youth

## Monthly Bulletin

EDITOR :

W. ARTHUR PEACOCK.

No. 6 (NEW SERIES)

DECEMBER, 1930

## THE BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE

*The Agenda — Dr. Dalton and the League—The Year's Work.*

**A**RRANGEMENTS have been made for the annual conference of the League of Youth to be held at the Exhibition Hall, Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Saturday, 10th January, 1931, at 2.30 p.m. There will be an afternoon and evening session. Conference will be confined to Branches of the League who may appoint two delegates for the first 100 members or part thereof, and an additional delegate for every 50 members or part thereof where the Branch exceeds 100 members.

The business of the conference will have reference to the League of Youth activities, the development of more effective organisation and should provide a valuable opportunity for surveying the progress of the League and conveying ideas upon future activities and developments.

### Welcome to Delegates.

The afternoon session will consist of the address by the Chairman, a welcome to the delegates by Dr. Hugh Dalton, M.P., on behalf of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party, consideration of the Advisory Committee report and discussion upon rules, constitution and the place of advisory committees in League organisation.

The evening session will cover the educational and recreational activities of the League. Discussion will be invited upon such topics as summer schools, study circles, speakers panels, cycling clubs, organisation of camps and foreign tours.

We are confident that the agenda will provide opportunity for a useful and valuable discussion and it is hoped that branches will take an active interest in the conference and take the necessary steps to ensure the attendance of their

delegates. In this connection it is well to emphasise that arrangements have been made with the railway companies providing for the issue of return railway tickets at the rate of ordinary single fare and one third to delegates and visitors attending the conference.

The Birmingham Advisory Committee are arranging to supply tea on the conference premises at the rate of one shilling per person and are also organising a social function at the conclusion of the conference. Hospitality arrangements are in the hands of Miss B. Clayton, c/o Mrs. Hyde, 10, Wheelers Lane, King's Heath, Birmingham, and all delegates staying over the night should communicate with Mrs. Hyde who will make the necessary arrangements.

### The Year's Work.

The report of the year's work that will be presented to the delegates at Birmingham is one that is exceedingly encouraging. The League organisation has made great headway in all parts of the country, many new branches have been formed, many new members enrolled and a variety of useful activities fostered. Advisory Committees have also been established and many benefits gained as the result of co-operation between branches. The form of activities sponsored by branches differs in the various constituencies, but reports have come to hand showing that debates and discussions, educational lectures and study circles, dramatic societies, choirs, concert parties, rambling groups, tennis, cricket and football clubs, are just a few of the popular items in the programme of local branches.

Information regarding activities has appeared in the Bulletin each month during the year. The change from a typewritten sheet to a 4-page printed

paper has been greatly appreciated by members of the League and many branches have ordered regular copies for their members. Quite a number, however, have not done this and it is hoped that they will take the necessary steps with the minimum of delay. The Bulletin always contains matter of important interest to League members, and for this reason should be widely read and distributed.

#### Please Answer Letters.

While mentioning this it will not be out of place to remind secretaries that the work of the National Advisory Committees is considerably hampered by their failure to respond to Head Office circulars. Both in the case of the circular regarding a League journal and the Pageant of Youth much difficulty has been experienced in collating information, and the committee has been prevented from proceeding with its plans. We know that the branch officials are busy people but we do urge upon them to communicate their members' decisions to Head Office as quickly as possible after the receipt of circular. The National Committee is always anxious to foster any scheme for increasing the strength and the useful-

ness of the League, but its endeavours are frustrated if they do not receive the whole-hearted support of the members.

#### Party Tributes.

During the year members of the National Committee have addressed meetings in various parts of the country. Maurice Hackett, accompanied by Dr. Felix Kanitz, of the Austrian Youth Movement, visited a number of branches during the summer months and it is hoped that as the result of our Austrian comrade's visit it will be possible to arrange for a League Party to visit Vienna in the early summer.

One of the most pleasing features of the work this year has been the receipt of letters from Party officials praising the achievements of the League in their locality and describing the useful Party work that has been carried on. Undoubtedly the League of Youth is playing a big part in the work of our local Labour Parties, but while we can be well satisfied with the progress made since the inception of the League, we must continue to strengthen the organisation, perfect its machinery and add to its roll of membership. The aim of the Birmingham conference will be to discuss ways and means of achieving these ends.

### THE BOOKSHELF

WE have on a previous occasion called readers' attention to the useful work of the Workers' Educational Association and to the advantages members can derive from participation in the activities that it sponsors. We are equally anxious to suggest to our members that they will find the "W.E.A. Aims to Study" a series worth watching and worth studying. The first of its publications is "The Structure of Modern Industry" by G. M. Colman, M.A. The aim of the series is to give an outline of facts which will serve as a background for a course of lectures.

The chapter headings of Miss Colman's book will act as a guide to its contents. How does Great Britain make a living? Who controls industry? Private Enterprise. How is Industry Financed? These are just a few of the questions to which the author addresses herself. Those seeking to understand such questions will find this book of instructive and educational value. Copies are available

price 6d. from the office of the Workers' Educational Association.

A great deal is being said and written just now concerning the Five Year Plan of reconstruction that the Soviets are undertaking. League members who wish to understand this colossal enterprise and to learn of the progress that it is making will find valuable and informative particulars regarding it in a useful pamphlet, "The Five Year Plan," which W. P. Coates has written and copies of which are available from the Anglo-Russian Parliamentary Committee, Robert St., Adelphi. Price 6d. Mr. Coates deals with the important trades and industries of the country and the study that he has made convinces him that the Plan will be completed sooner than its sponsors anticipated.

A cheap reprint has just been published of F. J. Gould's biography of H. M. Hyndman (Allen and Unwin, 2s. 6d.). This story of the great Social Democrat's work for Socialism should interest all young people in the Labour movement.



## SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS

### Book Prizes for the Winners

THE announcement of a literary competition for members of the League of Youth which was made in these columns in September last, has not aroused the interest that was anticipated. The National Advisory Committee has decided, therefore, that in order that members may have a further opportunity to enter for the same, the closing date for receipt of entries shall be extended for two months. This means that essays may be submitted until February 21, 1931. It is hoped that this extension of time will give members facilities for preparing essays and that as the result of this step a considerable number of entries will be submitted.

For the benefit of those who are not conversant with the subjects set for the competitions and with the rules pertaining to them we give below the following information.

In the first place it should be noted that the competition is divided into two classes.

#### Points to Remember.

Class A is open to the younger members of the League who are between the ages of 14 and 17. Entrants for this class are asked to submit essays of not more than 600 words on "*Why I am a member of the Labour Party League of Youth.*" Class B is open to members between the ages of 17 and 25 who are asked to submit essays of equal length dealing with the "*Life of any Labour Leader.*"

Competitors are asked to remember the following:—

1. Manuscripts should not be longer than 600 words.
2. They must be written on one side of the paper only and should have the writer's name and address clearly stated on top of the first page.
3. An entrance fee of 3d. should be sent with the entry.
4. All entries should be sent to—

League of Youth Competition,  
The Labour Party,  
Transport House South,  
Smith Sq., London,  
S.W.1

and the Class A or B should be marked plainly upon the envelope.

5. The last day for receiving entries will be FEBRUARY 21st, 1931.
6. Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., and Mr. F. O. Roberts, M.P., have kindly consented to act as judges for this competition and their decisions will be accepted as final.
7. No correspondence can be entered into respecting the competitions and no responsibility can be accepted for the return of MSS.

The National Advisory Committee urges secretaries of the branches to bring these particulars before their members with the minimum of delay. It asks all readers of the Bulletin who are eligible to enter the competition to do so and at the same time to urge their friends to do the same thing. We do want to receive a large number of entries for we are anxious to see what the members of the League have to say upon these subjects.

Members who have submitted entries already should note that these remain unopened in the possession of the Secretary of the National Advisory Committee who will retain them until February when they will be considered along with entries then received.

All Branches should have

### LEAGUE OF YOUTH BADGES

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Party, Publications Department,  
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#### NOTICE.

"The League of Youth Monthly Bulletin" is issued by the Press and Publicity Department of the Labour Party. By arrangement with the "Labour Organiser" it is first published in the pages of that journal, from which it is reprinted for wider circulation.



## Things We Hear

### LEAGUE NEWS.

**WE** hear that the **Birmingham** members are pleased that the annual conference is to be held in their city and that they are making bold steps to ensure that everything is a thorough success. As is announced elsewhere in this issue they are arranging a social gathering after the conference and are also accepting the responsibility of finding accommodation for delegates who are staying over the night. At the same time they are actively proceeding with their usual proceedings. The Bromford League held a meeting recently at which Mr. While of the Birmingham Federation dealt with the necessity for greater co-operation between branches. Sunday games was the subject for discussion at a meeting of the Soho League. Opinion was decidedly in favour of Sunday games, there being 27 votes cast in favour and 7 against. This branch is to hold its annual dinner shortly.

**Central Wandsworth** monthly report reveals a continuation of the very good programmes that have been arranged each month during the year. Jointly with the Balham League a discussion has lately been held on the merits of the liquor trade. A local I.L.P. has addressed the branch upon the rather intriguing subject of "Lost, S.olen or Strayed," while a Sunday ramble has also been a pleasing feature of the month.

**Grantham**, however, sends the most pleasing report this month. It is a long report, for it covers a period of 18 months. The secretary confesses that she has been too shy to write previously. Membership stands at 79, but, unfortunately, the percentage of members who regularly attend is not as high as it ought to be. Suggestions are wanted from other branches as to what steps can be taken to remedy this. Branch meetings are held fortnightly, and activities include a concert party and football club. The educational side is not forgotten. Recent talks at meetings have dealt with such topics as Safeguarding, the Railway Industry, Slums and Housing. Eager for publicity, the members have secured regular reports of their activities in the local press. They hope to send two delegates to the forthcoming conference.

News of a new branch at **West Lewisham** reaches us. At the inaugural meeting speeches were made by Paul Williams and Cammille Rose, of the National Advisory Committee, and also by Mr. Wren, of the Eltham Branch. The members were fortunate in having their local prospective Parliamentary candidate to preside over the gathering. Arrangements for future meetings are in hand and a busy time is anticipated.

**Buckingham.** The Council has been formed only eight months and has proved itself invaluable to the branches. Soon after its formation a Rally was held in aid of the Headquarters' Fund. A pageant was performed and a public meeting held in the evening when Maurice Hackett spoke. The day was a great success and added £15 to the funds.

The next objective is to form a new branch at Hanslope and it is expected that this will be accomplished very soon. The Council has arranged inter visits between the branches, a social at New Bradwell and a treasure hunt at Newport Pagnell. The Council always endeavours to bring about the closest possible unity between branches and has so successfully carried out its work that branches no longer feel they are each a separate body but that all are parts of a great movement.

**East Hull** continues to record progress and successful activities. Its recent garden fete was very successful. Its winter programme is full of interest. It includes debates with the Junior Imperial League, a mock parliament in connection with the Young Liberals, and several lectures including one on "The Industrial Revolution." A profitable dance has lately been held and the money handed over to the adult Party. The League Concert Party has also given a concert to the local women's section.

The **Eltham** branch has been praised before because of its splendid record of useful service during the year. To its many activities has been added the job of producing a monthly bulletin of its own. It is attractively produced and its contents are likely to interest the several hundreds of members that this branch has on its membership roll. Eltham does its job well.